

Administrative Office of the Courts
Trial Court Services Division Programs
Family Court Services Program

The Judicial Council of California
is proud to announce
a second
Dissertation
Grant Competition for the
1997 Family Court Services Ph.D. Grant Program

Deadline for Receipt of Submission: June 2, 1997

Enclosed is a description of the dissertation grant program to be awarded by September 1, 1997 by the Family Court Services Grant Program of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Council of California.

Who may respond: Students in programs relevant to family and juvenile court (e.g., law, psychology, sociology, education, social work, human development, etc.) seeking a Ph.D. in California.

Up to two Ph.D. students in California
will receive dissertation grants of \$8,000 each.

Wendy L. Constantine
Grants Coordinator
Statewide Office of Family Court Services
Administrative Office of the Courts
303 Second Street, South Tower
San Francisco, CA 94107

To apply, call (415) 396-9153 for materials or
download the application from the
Internet at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/aoc/trialcourtservices.htm>

1997 Family Court Services Dissertation Grant Program Announcement

Submission Deadline: June 2, 1997

Program Objectives

The Family Court Services Dissertation Grant Program was created to promote innovative and timely research and research training in areas that impact the California court system and its clients, especially with regard to the policies and practices governing the design and delivery of services to families seeking resolution of disputes regarding custody and visitation. Students in disciplinary or interdisciplinary programs relevant to family and juvenile court (e.g., psychology, sociology, education, social work, law, human development, etc.) are invited to apply.

The Dissertation Grant

Up to two grants of a maximum of \$ 8,000 will be awarded by **September 1, 1997** as a result of this grant solicitation. The award is intended to enable the student to purchase the materials and/or services required to conduct a meaningful dissertation study, and to minimize the need for outside employment by assisting with living expenses. Allowable costs include the investigators' living expenses and direct project expenses such as travel, data processing and supplies. The award may not be used to pay for:

- equipment;
- tuition expenses and fees;
- materials, and/or services that the University would normally supply to dissertation-level doctoral students free of charge (e.g., computing services, faculty consulting services); and
- costs associated with the preparation of the written dissertation (e.g., typing, copying, and binding of the dissertation).

The duration of the period of funding is 18 months, from **September 1, 1997 to March 1, 1999**. Funds will be disbursed in 3 allotments:

***The Judicial Council of California * Administrative Office of the
Courts * Family Court Services ***

1. By October 1, 1997 (approximately four weeks following the award of the grant), the recipient will receive \$3,000.
2. Approximately six weeks following receipt of a satisfactory written, mid-grant progress report signed by the student and by the chair of the dissertation committee, the recipient will receive another \$3,000. This progress report is to be submitted no earlier than **March 1, 1998**.
3. Approximately eight weeks following receipt of the completed dissertation manuscript (approved as completed by the degree-granting institution) and an executive summary (which will be due by **March 1, 1999**), the grantee will receive the final payment of \$2,000.

If requested, a five-month extension for the submission of the final manuscript may be granted. However, the final manuscript and executive summary must be submitted no later than **July 1, 1999** for the grantee to receive the final \$2,000 payment. **No extensions beyond July 1, 1999 will be given.**

Eligibility and Conditions of Funding

To be eligible for this grant, the student must:

1. have an approved dissertation proposal;
2. be working primarily on the dissertation research and writing during the 18-month period of the grant;
3. have no other awards which duplicate the benefits associated with this grant;
4. agree to provide the funding agency with
 - by **September 15, 1997**, a detailed timeline for dissertation completion;
 - on or after **March 1, 1998**, a mid-grant progress report;
 - a complete copy of the approved dissertation;
 - a 20-page executive summary; and
5. sign a contract containing a release to the granting agency to permit it to use and disseminate the manuscript and executive summary without payment of royalties.

In addition, preference will be given to applicants who are conducting their research on topics of high priority to the California Statewide Office of Family Court Services, and whose research is of direct relevance to the California court system. Examples of topics which would currently be considered of high priority are:

***The Judicial Council of California * Administrative Office of the
Courts * Family Court Services ***

Family Court

- The effects of various custodial arrangements on parent's and children's functioning and development.
- The impact of relationships with non-custodial parents on children's adjustment to the post-separation environment.
- Interventions (educational, therapeutic, etc.) for separating families that would assist them in learning new strategies for communication and negotiation.
- Dynamics of domestic violence pertinent to custody and visitation.
- Interventions for children from families who have experienced domestic violence.
Effect of geographic distance on the relationship between a child and a non-custodial parent.

Juvenile Court

- Evaluation of juvenile drug court outcomes.
- Determination of the incidence of delinquency among adopted children, or formulation of interventions specifically for this group.
- Evaluation of the nature of psychotropic medication requests for children under the supervision of the juvenile court, its incidence, and the appropriateness of such medication.
- Interventions for families with identified problems that may lead to out-of-home placement.
- Evaluating the effectiveness and safety of voluntary out-of-home placement.
- Identification of circumstances in which children should participate in juvenile court proceedings and determination of effectiveness of this participation.

Both Courts

- The effect of supervised visitation on child-parent relationships and on subsequent child adjustment.

Only those proposals that employ strong research designs and methodological procedures will be considered for funding. For example, many research designs employ comparisons in which one group of subjects receives a treatment or intervention and the other does not. While the use of comparison groups is encouraged, the researcher must take steps to maximize equivalency between groups. Random assignment to treatment and control groups is ideal, but other methods may be appropriate when random assignment is not possible, e.g. pre-testing subjects in both groups in order to identify any pre-existing group differences.

Students employing rigorous research designs are encouraged to apply even if they plan to collect data from relatively small samples of subjects. Small samples may preclude results that are readily generalizable. Well-conceptualized dissertations may serve, however, as pilot studies for subsequent larger sample (and therefore, more generalizable) research. In summary, rigorous research proposals that could lay the groundwork for further research in the fields of family and juvenile law will be given serious consideration.

Application Procedures

Applicants must complete each of the forms in the grant application packet, which can be obtained by calling the California Statewide Office of Family Court Services at (415) 396-9153, or by downloading the application from the internet at:
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/aoc/trialcourtservices.htm>

The packet includes each of the following:

- Application form
- Budget information requirements
- Confidential Evaluation form (to be filled out by the dissertation advisor)
- Verification form (to be to be filled out by the dean or department chair)

A copy of the approved dissertation proposal must also be submitted.

Future Grant Competitions

Deadlines for next year will be **January 12, 1998** and **June 1, 1998**.

*** The Judicial Council of California * Administrative Office of the
Courts * Family Court Services ***

Application Packet

1997 Family Court Services Dissertation Grant Program

This packet includes:

Application Form, including budget information requirements.

Proposal Cover Sheet

Confidential Evaluation Form
(for your Dissertation Advisor)

Verification Form
(for your Dean or Department Chair)

Checklist of Required Application Materials

***The Judicial Council of California * Administrative Office of the
Courts * Family Court Services ***

1997 Family Court Services Dissertation Grant Program

Application Form

Name of Applicant: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

University Affiliation: _____

Department or Program: _____

Dissertation Title: _____

I. Dissertation Committee Members (list names, titles, and areas of specialization):

Chair: _____

name title

areas of specialization

2) _____

name title

areas of specialization

3) _____

name title

areas of specialization

4) _____

name title

areas of specialization

II. Degree Progress Information

Year of Entry Into Year Advanced
Doctoral Program: _____ to Candidacy: _____

Date Dissertation Proposal
Approved (month, year) _____
(attach explanation if approval is unofficial or preliminary)

Anticipated Graduation Date
(month, year): _____

Remaining Degree Requirements Other Than the Dissertation:
(list all such requirements in the space below -- e.g., remaining or incomplete course work, internship requirements, etc.)

III. Attach a categorized list that clearly summarizes your professional experience and accomplishments relevant to the substantive proposed area of research (including paid employment, training, and volunteer work), and your post-doctoral career objectives.

IV. Attach a categorized list that clearly summarizes your professional research experience and accomplishments relevant to the proposed research methodology.

V. Specific Substantive Preparation for the Proposed Dissertation Study

Please attach a list of the specific courses, research activities, and professional experiences that have prepared you to address the subject matter of your dissertation study. Include training you may have received relevant to the substantive area to be investigated.

VI. Specific Methodological Preparation for the Proposed Dissertation Study

Please attach a list of the specific courses, research activities, and professional experiences that have prepared you to conduct the methodological aspect(s) of your dissertation study. Include training you may have received that will help you carry out the study methodology.

VII. Copy of Approved Dissertation Proposal and Cover Sheet

Please enclose a complete copy of your approved proposal. This is the document that the Family Court Services Research Panel will read to evaluate the scientific and applied merits of your proposed dissertation research.

Your proposal will be judged on the following:

- Congruence with Judicial Council family law research priorities.
- The quality of the research questions and conceptual framework.
- The quality of the research literature review.
- Strength of the research design.
- Adequacy of the sample and sample size.
- Adequacy of measurement procedures.
- Strength and quality of data analysis plans.
- Acceptability of human subject issues.

Provide a completed Cover Sheet for your proposal (see attached) that lists the page or pages on which each of the above listed topics are addressed. If you wish, you may attach additional information on any of these topics that you do not believe are adequately addressed in your proposal.

VIII. Human Subjects Approval

Please attach documentation indicating that your study has been reviewed and approved by the human subjects committee at your institution, or that you have been exempted from such a review. If your study has not yet received such approval, please provide a precise time line for the approval process.

IX. Budget Information Requirements

The purpose of the Family Court Services Dissertation Grant Program is to enable students to purchase the materials and/or services required to conduct a meaningful dissertation study, and to minimize the need for outside employment by supporting the dissertation study expenses for a maximum of \$ 8,000. The duration of the period of funding is 18 months, from September 1, 1997 to March 1,1999.

The award may not be used to pay for tuition expenses and fees, or for equipment, nor for materials and/or services that the University would normally supply to dissertation-level doctoral students free of charge (e.g., computing services, faculty consulting services). Costs associated with the preparation of the written dissertation (e.g., typing, copying, and binding of the dissertation) are also not permitted.

Please note that the budget request should not include any expenses already covered by other awards, fellowships, assistantships, or other institutional sources of support.

Please also note that grant recipients are expected to be working primarily on their dissertation research and writing during the period of the award.

Based on these guidelines, please submit the following pages as part of your grant application: (1) a **budget page** detailing how the dissertation award will be allocated to allowable research expenses, and (2) a **budget narrative** which provides a rationale for the requested funds in each category of research expenses.

Funds will be disbursed in 3 allotments:

1. By October 1, 1997, approximately four weeks following the award of the grant, the recipient will receive \$3,000.
2. Approximately six weeks following receipt of a satisfactory written, mid-grant progress report signed by the student and by the chair of the dissertation committee, the recipient will receive another \$3,000. This report is to be submitted no earlier than March 1, 1998.
3. Approximately eight weeks following receipt of the dissertation manuscript approved as completed by the degree-granting institution and an executive summary (which will be due by March 1, 1999), the grantee will receive the final payment of \$2,000.

If requested, a five-month extension for the submission of the final manuscript may be granted. However, the final manuscript and executive summary must be submitted no later than July 1, 1999 for the grantee to receive the final \$2,000 payment. **No extensions beyond July 1, 1999 will be given.**

1997 Family Court Services Dissertation Grant Program

Proposal Cover Sheet

Applicant's Name: _____

Topic

Addressed on page(s)

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| a. | Congruence with Judicial Council family law research priorities. | _____ |
| b. | Research questions and conceptual framework | _____ |
| c. | Coverage of research literature. | _____ |
| d. | Research design. | _____ |
| e. | Sample design and size. | _____ |
| f. | Measurement procedures. | _____ |
| g. | Data analysis plan(s). | _____ |
| h. | Human subject issues. | _____ |

Please attach to the front of your approved dissertation proposal.

1997 Family Court Services Dissertation Grant Program

Verification Form for Dean or Department Chair

Applicant's Name:_____

By signing below you are verifying to the State of California and its agencies that the above-named student is a doctoral candidate in good standing at your institution, and that the student has an approved dissertation proposal and has fulfilled all requirements for the degree other than the dissertation research requirement, except as noted below.

Additional requirements (if any):

**Signature of Dean
or Department Chair:**_____

**Printed Name of Dean
or Department Chair:**_____

Date Signed:_____

Please return this form to the student.

**1997 Family Court Services Dissertation Grant Program
Confidential Evaluation Form for Chair of Dissertation Committee**

Applicant's Name: _____

Based on your experience with dissertation-level doctoral students, please rate the applicant and the proposed dissertation study on each of the criteria listed below using the following scale:

5 = Outstanding/Excellent

2 = Average/Adequate

4 = Well Above Average/Very Good

1 = Below Average/Marginal

3 = Above Average/Good

0 = Uncertain/Don't Know

Student Attributes

Numerical Rating

Your confidence of dissertation completion _____

History of degree progress _____

Professional experience: work/training/volunteer
history relevant to proposed substantive area of research _____

Research experience and productivity: record
of scholarly activities and accomplishments
relevant to proposed research methodology _____

Specific substantive preparation for proposed study _____

Specific methodological preparation for proposed study _____

Proposal Attributes

Quality of research questions and conceptual
framework guiding the proposed study _____

Coverage and understanding of research literature _____

Strength and appropriateness of research design _____

Adequacy of sample and sample size _____

Adequacy of measurement procedures _____

Strength and quality of data analysis plans _____

Acceptability of human subjects issues _____

If you have additional comments, please write them on the reverse side of this sheet or attach a separate letter.

_____ **Committee Chair Signature**

_____ **Committee Chair Printed Name**

Please return this confidential evaluation to: Wendy Constantine, Statewide Office of Family Court Services, 303 Second Street, South Tower, San Francisco, CA 94107 FAX # 415-396-9281.

Checklist of Required Application Materials

	<u>Incomplete</u>	<u>Complete</u>	<u>Missing</u>
A. Application Form			
I. Composition of dissertation committee	_____	_____	_____
II. Degree progress information	_____	_____	_____
III. Summary of accomplishments and career objectives relevant to the proposed area of research	_____	_____	_____
IV. Summary of professional research experience and accomplishments relevant to the proposed research methodology	_____	_____	_____
V. Specific substantive preparation for dissertation study	_____	_____	_____
VI. Specific methodological preparation for dissertation study	_____	_____	_____
VII. Copy of proposal cover sheet and approved proposal	_____	_____	_____
VIII. Copy of human subjects approval, waiver, or plan for approval/waiver	_____	_____	_____
IX. Budget and Budget Narrative	_____	_____	_____
B. Confidential Evaluation Form filled out by the Dissertation Advisor	_____	_____	_____
C. Verification Form filled out by the Dean or Department Chair	_____	_____	_____

Note: Item B is to be submitted separately by the dissertation committee chair. All other items should be submitted by the student.

